

What is claimed:

1. A gastric reduction device comprising:

an expandable structure, placeable in a stomach, the  
expandable structure, when expanded, occupying a portion of  
the stomach; and

an evacuator that deflates the stomach around the  
expandable structure to form a gastric reduction pouch.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the expandable structure  
is placeable in the stomach immediately adjacent and distal to  
an esophageal orifice associated with the stomach.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the expandable structure  
comprises a balloon.

4. The device of claim 1 wherein the expandable structure  
is an inflatable structure.

5. The device of claim 4 wherein the inflatable structure  
is a compliant balloon.

6. The device of claim 4 wherein the inflatable structure  
is a non-compliant balloon.

7. The device of claim 1 wherein the evacuator extends  
distally from the expandable member and terminates within the  
stomach.

8. The device of claim 1 further comprising a fastener  
that maintains the gastric reduction pouch.

9. The device of claim 8 wherein the fastener inwardly folds stomach tissue to fasten serosa tissue to serosa tissue of the stomach.

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10. The device of claim 8 wherein the fastener comprises a cylindrically shaped member having opposed ends and tissue engaging arms radially extending from each of the opposed ends.

10 11. The device of claim 1 further comprising an endoscope that extends through the expandable member.

12. The device of claim 1 wherein the expandable member forms a spherically shaped ring when expanded.

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13. The device of claim 12 wherein the spherically shaped ring includes an axial passageway and wherein the evacuator extends through the passageway.

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14. A gastric reduction system, comprising:

an expandable structure, placeable in a stomach and, when expanded, occupying a fractional volume of the stomach;

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an evacuator that deflates the stomach and draws the stomach to and around the expandable structure to form a gastric reduction pouch with stomach tissue; and

a fastener that is operable to maintain the gastric reduction pouch.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the expandable structure is placeable in the stomach immediately adjacent and distal to an esophageal orifice associated with the stomach.

5        16. The system of claim 14 wherein the expandable structure comprises a balloon.

17. The device of claim 14 wherein the expandable structure is an inflatable structure.

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18. The device of claim 17 wherein the inflatable structure is a compliant balloon.

15        19. The device of claim 17 wherein the inflatable structure is a non-compliant balloon.

20. The system of claim 14 wherein the evacuator extends distally from the expandable member and terminates within the stomach.

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21. The system of claim 14 wherein the fastener inwardly folds stomach tissue to fasten serosa tissue to serosa tissue of the stomach.

25        22. The system of claim 21 wherein the fastener comprises a cylindrically shaped member having opposed ends and tissue engaging arms radially extending from each of the opposed ends.

30        23. The system of claim 21 wherein the fastener is carried by the evacuator.

24. The system of claim 14 further comprising an endoscope that extends through the expandable member.

25. The system of claim 14 wherein the expandable member  
5 forms a spherically shaped ring when expanded.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the spherically shaped ring includes an axial passageway and wherein the evacuator extends through the passageway.

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27. A method comprising:

positioning an expandable structure in a stomach of a patient;

expanding the expandable structure to occupy a portion  
15 of the stomach; and

drawing the stomach around the expanded expandable structure to form a gastric reduction pouch.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the positioning step  
20 includes placing the expandable structure immediately distal to an esophageal orifice associated with the stomach.

29. The method of claim 27 wherein the expandable structure comprises a balloon and wherein the expanding step  
25 includes inflating the balloon.

30. The method of claim 27 wherein the deflating step includes evacuating the stomach.

31. The method of claim 27 wherein the deflating step includes feeding an evacuator into the stomach and evacuating the stomach.

5        32. The method of claim 27 including the further step of maintaining the gastric reduction pouch.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the maintaining step includes inwardly folding stomach tissue to contact serosa  
10 tissue to serosa tissue to form a stomach.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the maintaining step further includes fastening the inwardly folded stomach tissue together.

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